(b) SAIL has been taking number of steps on continuous basis to improve its performance which *inter alia* include :

Business restructuring envisaging divestment of non-core assets and channelising all resources towards the core activity of iron and steel making.

Intensive cost control.

Control on capital expenditure.

Market oriented product-mix, reinforcing sales and marketing efforts, and greater focus on customer satisfaction, resulting in better sales realisation.

Rightsizing Manpower.

Prudent funds Management.

(c) SAIL is expected to earn profit during the year 2003-04, if the current market trend continues.

Expansion Plan of VSP

5249. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved the Vizag Steel Plant proposal of Rs. 2,500 crore expansion plan;

(b) if so, what is the total capacity that would be improved after the expansion ;

(c) whether the outstanding loan of the company has come down reasonably;

(d) if so, what was the total burden of loan reduced by the company during 2002-03; and

(e) to what extent this project would enhance the capacity of finished steel production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Loan burden has been reduced by Rs. 600.61 crs. during 2002-03.